

Higher education budget cuts will reduce funded enrollment more than 7,000 FTE

One of the most difficult legislative sessions in decades ended last weekend with lawmakers approving \$3.3 billion for the state's higher education system—about \$617 million (15.2 percent) less than the proposed maintenance-level budget.

Funded enrollment at the state's four-year institutions will be reduced by more than 7,083 FTE over the biennium. Enrollment at the University of Washington is reduced 3,344 FTE, while enrollment at the regional universities and The Evergreen State College is reduced 3,539 FTE.

For a closer look:

The HECB web site provides in-depth information on higher education operating and capital budgets for the 2009-11 biennium. Also find a list of legislative assignments for the coming year. [Read more.](#)

Enrollment at community and technical colleges will remain the same as in the current biennium.

Annual tuition increases of up to 14 percent for resident undergraduates at the baccalaureate institutions and 7 percent for the community and technical colleges were authorized. Institutions are free to set their own tuition levels within the new limits. The 7 percent cap is reinstituted in 2011-12.

Factoring anticipated revenue from tuition increases and federal stimulus money, the average funding cut is 14.6 percent for the four-year institutions and 10.6 percent for the community and technical colleges against maintenance level.

Enrollment cuts come at a time of record demand for postsecondary education. Thousands of students from Washington's largest-ever high school graduating class will vie for seats with many other students returning to school because they may have lost a job in the recession.

Higher education's share of the total state budget dropped from 11.2 percent in 2007-09, to 10.4 percent in the 2009-11 budget. Ironically, the cuts come just two years removed from what was one of the best funding sessions for higher education in recent history.

Tuition Policy Study

ESHB 2344, which authorized the tuition increases, also requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to convene a stakeholder group to make recommendations on future tuition policy. The study will encompass a high-tuition, high-aid model, and differential tuition based on income. A report is due to the Legislature by November 1, 2009.

Non-Resident and Graduate Tuition

SSB 5734 extends through the 2012-13 academic year the authority of institutions to set tuition levels for all classes of students except resident undergraduates.

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A weekly report on higher education during the 2009 Legislative Session



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What's in the news:

Olympian: [Governor plans special 1-day session](#)

Seattle Times: [CWU students to protest likely tuition increases](#)

Bellingham Herald: [WWU to cut almost \\$19 million](#)

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Legislature mandates 'Opportunity Pathway' label for financial aid

A bill requiring the HECB and institutions to rebrand all student financial aid programs as Opportunity Pathways in printed materials, presentations, web content, and other communications passed the Legislature and has been signed by the Governor.

[See more financial aid news](#)

E2SHB 2021 also requires institutions to disclose on undergraduate resident-student billing statements the full cost of instruction and the amount collected from student tuition and fees. The billing statements also will be required to note that the difference between the two was paid by state tax funds and other moneys.

The bill creates a new category within the State Need Grant program for needy placebound students who have earned associate degrees. Needy placebound students are those who can't complete college programs because of family, employment, or other circumstances, but would be influenced to do so if they receive the "enhanced" financial aid.

E2SHB also requires the HECB:

- To manage the consolidation of the Educational Opportunity Grant program into the State Need Grant program.
- To assist institutions in developing off-campus, high-demand State Work Study (SWS) placements and to manage this additional SWS project sub-program.
- Within existing resources, to establish the work study opportunity grant for high-demand occupations. This is a competitive grant program to encourage high-demand job placements.

To administer a new higher education loan program to assist students in need of additional low-cost student loans and related loan benefits.

New law offers needy students internships in high-demand fields

Low-income high school students will have expanded opportunities to "test drive" potential careers in high-demand fields under a bill passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Chris Gregoire.

The Opportunity Internship Program created through 2SHB 1355 will allow local consortia of employers, labor organizations, educational institutions, and workforce and economic development councils to offer internships in high-demand fields to students while still in high school. It also provides state financial assistance and the promise of a job interview to those students who complete a postsecondary program of study.

The program will be administered by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. The HECB will work with institutions of higher education to assure they are aware Opportunity Internship graduates are eligible for financial assistance.

HECB to lead planning on development of web-based information portal

Gov. Chris Gregoire has signed legislation (SSB 5043) directing the HECB to convene a work group to develop a plan for a one-stop, web-based portal providing information to students and families attending or preparing to go to college.

The comprehensive, online information source is one of the recommendations in the state's Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education.

In addition to the HECB, participants in the work group will include the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Council of Presidents, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, the Independent Colleges of Washington, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, representatives of the public, private, and private vocational colleges in Washington, and others.

The work group will submit a final report, as well as proposed legislative and administrative solutions, to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2009. The work is to be performed within existing funds.

Bills delivered to Governor:

- [2SHB 1025](#) – Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.
- [SHB 1128](#) – Changing innovation partnership zone provisions.
- [HB 1156](#) – Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and National Guard members.
- [SHB 1216](#) – Adopting a 2009-11 capital budget.
- [SHB 1244](#) – Making 2009-11 operating appropriations.
- [SHB 1323](#) – Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [SHB 1328](#) – Allowing public technical colleges to offer degrees that prepare students to transfer to certain bachelor degree programs.
- [2SHB 1355](#) – Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students.
- [HB 1394](#) – Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [HB 1395](#) – Clarifying terms for workforce and economic development.
- [HB 1474](#) – Changing border county opportunity program provisions.
- [HB 1487](#) – Regarding resident student classification.
- [HB 1640](#) – Modifying disclosure requirements for private investment information received by the University of Washington consolidated endowment fund.
- [HB 1675](#) – Changing the work experience provisions of the alternative route partnership grant program.
- [ESHB 1694](#) – Addressing fiscal matters for the 2007-2009 biennium.
- [SHB 1943](#) – Requiring recommendations for preparation and professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce.
- [2SHB 1946](#) – Regarding higher education online technology.
- [EHB 1986](#) – Authorizing a peer mentoring pilot program at Western Washington University and a community or technical college.
- [E2SHB 2021](#) – Revitalizing student financial aid.
- [HB 2119](#) – Expanding dual credit opportunities.
- [E2SB 2227](#) – Enacting the evergreen jobs act.
- [ESHB 2344](#) – Regarding resident undergraduate tuition.
- [SSB 5001](#) – Eliminating the matching fund requirement for the American Indian endowed scholarship program.
- [SSB 5043](#) – Convening a work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [SSB 5044](#) – Changing work study provisions
- [SSB 5172](#) – Establishing a University of Washington center for human rights.
- [SB 5173](#) – Authorizing the regional universities to confer honorary doctorate degrees.
- [SSB 5177](#) – Creating a global Asia institute within the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.
- [SSB 5276](#) – Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [SSB 5410](#) – Regarding the digital learning commons.
- [ESSB 5460](#) – Reducing the administrative cost of state government during the 2007-2009 and 2009-2022 fiscal biennia.
- [SB 5554](#) – Regarding the job skills program.
- [SSB 5734](#) – Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [SSB 5776](#) – Regarding student fees, charges and assessments.
- [E2SSB 5809](#) – Revising unemployment compensation and workforce training provisions.
- [ESB 5995](#) – Eliminating certain boards, committees, and commissions and the transfer of certain duties.
- [SSCR 8404](#) – Providing for the 2008-18 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.
- [SGA 9138](#) – Nita Rinehart
- [SGA 9014](#) – Ethelda Burke
- [SGA 9041](#) – Earl Hale